

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1384
By Borchert

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Deborah Grasty of Stewart County upon receiving the Education Consumers Foundation's Value-Added Achievement Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those outstanding professionals who have dedicated their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Grasty is most assuredly one such superlative professional, who, after serving with distinction for six years as principal at North Stewart Elementary School in Big Rock, Tennessee, was recently selected to receive the Education Consumers Foundation's Value-Added Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, unlike most education awards, the Value-Added Achievement Award is based solely on objectively measured achievement gain, and it is accompanied by a \$1,000 to \$3,000 cash prize; the award recognizes that for the past three years, North Stewart Elementary has been among the most effective of Tennessee's more than 1,300 elementary and middle schools in teaching reading/language arts and mathematics; and

WHEREAS, as sponsor of the award, Education Consumers Foundation is a consumer organization for parents, taxpayers, and their elected representatives; the members gather and disseminate independent and accurate information about schools and colleges via their Web site; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation's reason for conferring these awards in Tennessee is that Tennessee's Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS) is arguably the most mature and sophisticated in the nation and one of the very few that enables consumers to see for themselves which schools are producing the best results; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Value-Added Achievement Award is to give recognition to those schools and to encourage others to imitate them, as well as to encourage other states to adopt accountability systems that are equally accurate and consumer-friendly; and

WHEREAS, within each of Tennessee's three Grand Divisions, the top three elementary schools and the top three middle schools, including K-8s, were selected on the basis of their most recent three-year-average achievement gains in math and reading/language arts; schools with principals serving fewer than five years were excluded; and

WHEREAS, Governor Bredeson presented the Education Consumers Foundation's Value-Added Achievement Award at a ceremony held at the State Capitol in the old Tennessee Supreme Court chamber on May 8, 2006; it was the first annual presentation of these awards, which recognize the principals and schools who are not only saying, but actively demonstrating that "all children can learn"; and

WHEREAS, Principal Grasty is an extremely talented and compassionate administrator who has worked assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; she serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Grasty truly epitomizes the dedicated principal who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for her students, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Principal Deborah Grasty of North Stewart Elementary School in Big Rock upon receiving the Education Consumers Foundation's Value-Added Achievement Award, salute her for her generous dedication to her students and her community, and offer our heartfelt wishes for every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.